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## State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
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January 16, 1990

V L 1/17/015/025 #27  
Pam - see notes  
we can discuss L/B

Mr. Menco Copinga

North Emery Water Association

Elmo, Utah 84521

Dear Mr. Copinga:

I am writing you about Birch Springs. It has just come to my attention that the water quality problem has improved. Further, that the inordinate volume of water discharging through the cracks in the fault contiguous to your underground collection system has now reverted to seeps, i.e. former condition. Of course, the most encouraging news is that the water from Birch Springs is back on line and in your water system that serves 1400 people in rural Emery County.

The matter you identified and called to our attention the middle of October, as I understand it, involved: (1) five fold increase in the Birch Springs over normal flow, (2) <sup>comingling</sup> comingling of surface water and ground water, (3) surface water, nonexistent prior to the middle of October, contaminating your underground spring collection system, and (4) water quality problems. This resulted in temporarily eliminating Birch Springs from your culinary water system for a period of two and a half months in a critical water shortage year. Most, if not all, of your other springs

had a reduced flow during this period.

Page 2

Birch Springs Draft

*Put in a section summarizing  
work here*

DO6mb

*add in copy of fault  
maps with min workings*

What caused the Birch Springs problem is still unknown. I regret that we do not know the cause. If we did, it would perhaps add to our knowledge of ground water and ground water problems. However, we did take action, within our capability to determine if it was mine related. We checked the underground mine water system at an active mine. Also, checked surface springs associated with a reclaimed mine. In the reclaimed mine all the portals had been sealed and covered. Therefore, mine water could not be checked. We did check two springs at the reclaimed mine and the flow had not increased. In addition, we looked for mine breakouts and water discharge from such breakouts. We did not find any unauthorized breakouts nor water discharges from any breakout. Also, we analyzed the geology and faults in the area. The information gathered to date is insufficient to conclude the problem was or was not mine related. Nevertheless, since the problem now has solved itself, we shall put this matter to rest.

*re word*

In closing, please convey my appreciation to Jack Stoyanoff and others who have been so helpful and accomodating to the Division employees that have worked on this project. Also, your patience in working with the Division is appreciated.

*Sincerely*

Dianne R. Nielson

Director

Utah Division of Oil, Gas  
and Mining

cc: State Health